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DETAILED ACTION

Examiner's Amendment

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in an interview with Stephen Ackerman on 9/28/2009.

The application has been amended as follows:

In claim 5, line 1, please delete "The method as defined in Claim I" and replace it with "The method as defined in Claim 1".

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1, 3-15 and 26-35 are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Re claims 1, 3-7 and 27-29, the prior art fails to teach or suggest, "A method of embedding camera information and image capture related information in a digital form of an image, comprising: receiving information on a first static camera characteristic suitable to enhance image reproduction; receiving information on a first static camera characteristic suitable to identify a single camera that is the source of the image by embedding unique single camera characteristics; receiving camera setting information related to a first captured digitized image; generating an encryption key based at least in part on the first static camera characteristic; embedding a watermark in said first captured digitized image, wherein the watermark contains at least a portion of the information on at least one of said first static characteristics and at least a portion of the camera setting information related to said first captured digitized image; and encrypting the watermark using the encryption key, **wherein the first static camera characteristic suitable to enhance image reproduction is a camera image sensor bad pixel characteristic**".

Re claims 8-15 and 30-32, the prior art fails to teach or suggest, "A digital camera system, comprising: an imager; a first static camera characteristic associated with the imager in regard of enhancing image reproduction; a first static camera characteristic associated with the imager in regard of identifying a single camera that is the source of an image by embedding unique single camera characteristics; a first variable camera setting; a watermark generator used to embed in the form of a

watermark at least one of said first static camera characteristic and said first variable camera setting information in an image captured by the camera; and a key generator configured to generate an encryption key used to encrypt the watermark, **wherein said fist static camera characteristic for enhancing image reproduction is gamma information**".

Re claims 26 and 33-35, the prior art fails to teach or suggest, "A method of including camera information and image capture related information in association with a digital from of an image, comprising: capturing an image: digitizing an image; **receiving information on a first static camera characteristic suitable to enhance image reproduction, wherein said first static camera characteristic is gamma information**; a first static camera characteristic associated with the imager in regard of identifying a single camera that is the source of an image by embedding unique single camera characteristics; receiving camera setting information related to a first captured digitized image; inserting a data set associated with the digitized image at least a portion of the information on at least one first static characteristic; and transmitting the digitized image and the data set to an image processor ".

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Contacts

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Kelly L. Jerabek whose telephone number is **(571) 272-7312**. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday (8:00 AM - 5:00 PM).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jason Chan can be reached at **(571) 272-3022**. The fax phone number for submitting all Official communications is **(571) 273-7300**. The fax phone number for submitting informal communications such as drafts, proposed amendments, etc., may be faxed directly to the Examiner at (571) 273-7312.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

/Kelly L. Jerabek/
Examiner, Art Unit 2622